

Welcome to Fiscal Year 2011!

We have a lot of big plans for fiscal year 2010-2011. We hope to have the IDEA maintenance of effort compliance test in a web-based format, a web-based IDEA fiscal monitoring system, and we will continue to tweak the existing systems based on your use and feedback. We closed out fiscal year 2009-2010 having established the IDEA web-based claim system, the construction and remodeling application process, the maintenance of effort eligibility report, and finally, just this past week, the web-based special education high cost claim process. There were a few bumps in the road, but we really appreciate everyone's enthusiasm to embrace new processes. We truly hope these advancements are making your work more efficient and accurate.

Special Education High Cost Web-Based Claim System

The Special Education High Cost Aid program is available to education agencies that provided services to students with disabilities ages 3 to 21 whose individual special education costs were in excess of \$30,000 for a single school year. Claims are submitted based on prior year expenses. Claims for expenses that were incurred during 2009-2010 are due December 1, 2010. The funds are paid to eligible recipients in June 2011 for 2009-2010 costs.

A student qualifies for high cost aid if the total cost for a student is \$30,000 after special education categorical aid deductions. Only costs associated with direct educational services provided to the student qualify for aid. Costs associated with administration or overhead are not eligible for reimbursement.

The High Cost Special Education Aid program's claim process is accessed through the Special Education web portal. Instructions for completing the web-based claim forms can be viewed at www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/lpp-budgets.html#highcost.

Annually, approximately \$3.5 million is appropriated by the Wisconsin legislature as state categorical aid and \$2 million is set aside from the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) discretionary allocation to fund the High Cost Special Education Aid program.

Two high cost claim webinar tutorial sessions have been scheduled. The webinar will demonstrate the software and review reimbursable costs. To sign up, click on the hyperlink next to the date. The tutorial will be recorded and available at a later date on our website.

9 a.m. Friday, August 27: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/539282506>

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 21: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/645562123>

REMINDER: Final IDEA Claims for Fiscal Year 2010

Final claims for IDEA regular entitlement funds obligated in fiscal year 2009-2010 must be submitted by September 30, 2010. Final claims **must** be submitted through the web-based claim system and a copy must be printed and signed by the district administrator, or an individual who has been given the authority to act as the agency representative. Until DPI receives both the web-

based version of the final claim and an appropriately signed paper copy, payment cannot be made. If you have submitted a paper final claim, double-check to see that a web-based final claim has also been submitted. And, to expedite the process, if someone other than a district administrator is signing the final claim, provide DPI with information that supports that the individual has the authority to act as the agency representative.

Please remember, no “final” claims should be submitted for the ARRA funds unless all funds awarded have been expended. If the LEA has submitted a “final” ARRA claim but the full award amount was not claimed, the claim status has been changed to “partial” in the software.

Independent School Auditors and Individualized Education Plans (IEP)

As audit season is in full swing, DPI has received questions regarding privacy issues and the auditors need to view student IEPs. LEAs should rest assured that auditors are acting as agents of DPI and should be granted access to IEPs pursuant to section 118.125(2)(g)2 of the Wisconsin Statutes (Pupil Records) and title 34 section 99.35 of the Code of Federal Regulations (FERPA).

118.125(2) (g) 2: Upon request by the department, the school board shall provide the department with any information contained in a pupil record that relates to an audit or evaluation of a federal or state-supported program or that is required to determine compliance with requirements under chs. 115 to 121.

Account Codes for IDEA Funding Sources

The following accounts are listed by Fund - Source Code - Project Code - Appn.

ARRA-IDEA Flow-through (CFDA 84.391): 27-730-813-242

ARRA-IDEA CEIS (CFDA 84.391): 27-730-813-242

ARRA-IDEA Preschool (CFDA 84.391): 27-730-819-242

IDEA Flow-through (CFDA 84.027): 27-730-341-241

IDEA CEIS (CFDA 84.027): 10*-730-341-241

IDEA Preschool (CFDA 84.173): 27-730-347-241

*Beginning in FY 2011, IDEA-CEIS should be budgeted to Fund 10. Prior years, including ARRA CEIS funds, were budgeted in Fund 27.